US Data Center Daily Briefing

May 31, 2026

KEY THEMES

- South Africa invites Indian investment into data centres and renewables
- SA–India trade rises to nearly $20bn in 2024
- SA–India SMME Industrial Linkage Programme targeted within one year
- Two joint tech or pharma manufacturing projects for Africa

South Africa is explicitly pitching India on **data centres, renewable energy technologies, and critical-minerals beneficiation**—and it's doing it inside a broader roadmap that's already riding a big trade number. Bilateral trade has grown from **$4bn in 2005 to nearly $20bn in 2024**, and Deputy President Paul Mashatile is now trying to turn that momentum into concrete industrial linkages and joint manufacturing aimed at African markets. For data centre investors, the subtext is clear: Pretoria wants Indian capital and capability to land in projects that sit right at the power–compute–minerals intersection.

The Big Stories

South Africa–India Roadmap for Technology, Trade and Investment sets out a collaboration agenda that includes launching an **SA–India SMME Industrial Linkage Programme within one year** and establishing **at least two joint technology or pharmaceutical manufacturing projects** intended to serve **African markets**. Alongside those deliverables, the statement directly **invites Indian investment** into **data centres**, **renewable energy technologies**, and **critical minerals beneficiation**.

Why this matters: South Africa is signalling that "data centres" aren't being treated as a standalone real estate play—they're being packaged with energy technology and minerals processing as part of a wider industrial policy push. For India, it's an invitation to bring not just capital, but supply chains and engineering capacity into a market that wants more in-country value add. For everyone else, it's a reminder that emerging-market compute expansion is increasingly being negotiated as a bundle: power solutions, local industry development, and geopolitics all in the same room.

Behind the Headlines

Today's feed is dominated by a single government roadmap rather than multiple project announcements, financing rounds, or capacity commitments. That's not nothing: policy signalling often arrives before the capex—and it tends to shape *who* gets welcomed into the next wave of builds, *what* kinds of projects get fast-tracked, and *how* they're framed to domestic constituencies. The practical watch item is whether this invitation evolves into named developers, specific sites, or procurement mechanisms (especially around power and grid access), because that's where "we'd like investment" turns into investable pipeline.

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